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NEW PARTY PURGE HITS SOVIET ARMENIA;
CIVILIAN PRODUCTION CURTAILED

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES MADE IN PARTY -- Beirut, Aztarar, 21 Sep 51

M. Boghosov [probably A. V. Pogosov], secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Soviet Armenia, has announced over Radio Moscow that important organizational changes have taken place recently in the Communist Party of Soviet Armenia. The program of reorganization was instituted immediately after the Central Committee completed its investigation of counterrevolutionary activities among certain party members.

These "organizational changes" are expressed in the party's latest purge, as a result of which thousands of Armenians have suffered imprisonment, exile to Siberia, or death.

SAYS PARTY MEMBERS STOLE FUNDS -- Beirut, Aztarar, 28 Sep 51

Krikor Haroutoonian [probably Grigoriy A. Arutinov], secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Armenia, declared that the members of the Armenian Communist Party who were recently indicted and convicted had stolen funds from the government, collective farms, and cooperatives. Hundreds of workers, not members of the Communist Party, have also been arrested.

The Communist Party of Soviet Armenia has 61,500 members. This number has not increased since 1948, but the Gomerid Union (Komsomol) has added 30,000 members to its list during the past 3 years. Today, the Gomerid Union has 138,000 members.

Industrial production in Soviet Armenia has increased by 24 percent since 1940. Progress has been most pronounced in the development of electrical power, the manufacture of chemical products, and the construction of machinery.

A new, large hydroelectric plant has been constructed in Sevan. The production of copper and similar metals has increased during recent months.

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Last year, the rubber factories produced some 200,000 tires.

The production of domestic consumers' goods, however, has been considerably less than satisfactory. There are no inexpensive but fine-quality household goods. Shoes and clothing manufactured in Soviet Armenia are frequently scarce. There is no variety in the commodities sold in the stores. The people are in a constant state of anxiety.

Agricultural production has also increased, but Soviet Armenia must still import 70 percent of its required grain. Housing construction has declined sharply. The number of houses built in 1950 was 15 percent lower than in 1949. Furthermore, all civilian construction faces even greater curtailment in the coming months.

Having failed to meet requirements for breeding cattle, hundreds of peasants have been ordered arrested by the secretary of the Armenian Communist Party, Krikor Haroutoonian.

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